

# KilliecrAnkie1689

2 March 2018

## MOTIONS HELP DRIVE A9 ROAD PLANS INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Campaigners who want Transport Scotland to rethink road plans over the historic Killiecrankie battlefield have successfully enlisted help from politicians at Holyrood and Westminster and now want to mobilise greater support across the country.

Transport Scotland has run into a blockade of objections about the way it plans to widen the existing A9 road at Killiecrankie. A local residents campaign group, KilliecrAnkie1689, says that the proposed route and design will degrade the battlefield, a site of historic national importance. Now they want the public to request all constituency MPs and MSPs throughout the entire UK to get involved.

Both Murdo Fraser, Regional MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife, and Pete Wishart, MP for Perth and North Perthshire, have submitted a Motion for debate about the road plan on the battlefield in their respective parliaments. Campaigners want to mobilise support across the country by asking the public to urge politicians of all persuasions to back the Motions at Holyrood and Westminster. As this is not a party-political issue, they hope to widen the debate about managing necessary improvements in infrastructure while respecting history, heritage and archaeology.

Murdo Fraser has collected signatures from 23 fellow MSPs. "There has already been strong support for my Holyrood Motion on the proposals for A9 dualling at Killiecrankie and I am hoping for more cross-Party backing so I can secure a debate in Parliament on this important topic," he says.

"This is not just an issue for Perthshire – the national importance of the Killiecrankie battle site makes this a matter for MSPs across Scotland. A Parliamentary debate would give the opportunity for concerns to be raised direct with Ministers about the damage that will be done by building the A9 extension on the current proposed route," says the Conservative MSP.

At Westminster, Pete Wishart, has garnered support from 14 fellow SNP MPs for his Early Day Motion in the House of Commons. In general, an Early Day Motion is not debated on the floor of the House but it enables parliamentarians to demonstrate support and to raise awareness about a particular issue. That is the case with or without cross-Party backing.

Pete Wishart says that UK's historic battlefield sites should be preserved and celebrated as part of national culture. He also expresses concern at the encroachment on the battlefield site by the proposed dualling of the A9 and "calls on Transport Scotland to look again at the planning of this route".

The Battle of Killiecrankie was fought on 27 July 1689. It was the first engagement of the Jacobite uprisings and certainly one of the bloodiest with over 2,000 estimated to have died in an hour of fierce slaughter. Historians agree that the fighting was concentrated on a strip of flattish terrain that runs beside the current northbound carriageway. It is that very area that will be destroyed by the new road and related infrastructure.

Transport Scotland often justifies its plans by saying the existing road already bisects the battlefield and that the widened road will have an impact however it is built. Campaigners reject this, saying that planners must learn from mistakes that were made in the 1970s when the original road was built. The current proposal will compound earlier damage and degrade the most sensitive part of the site.

The final plans for transforming the road from single carriageway to dual carriageway were published at the end of November 2017. By the close of the objection period 2 months later, Transport Scotland had received 140 objections from all quarters, including blistering criticism from Historic Environment Scotland, the independent body ultimately responsible for safeguarding the battlefield.

Killiecrankie1689 is urging everyone who values Scotland's cultural environment to contact their parliamentary representatives both at Holyrood and Westminster. "Heritage matters," say campaigners, "whether you live beside the A9 or at the other end of the country."

Templates for supporters to contact MPs and MSPs are available on [www.killiecrankie1689.scot](http://www.killiecrankie1689.scot).

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

Email: [objections@killiecrankie1689.scot](mailto:objections@killiecrankie1689.scot)  
Phone: +44 (0) 7753 562260 (Henrietta Fergusson)  
Read: [www.killiecrankie1689.scot](http://www.killiecrankie1689.scot)  
Watch: <https://youtu.be/4Hdi9ZbbUTw>  
Twitter: @KilliecrankieA9  
Facebook: Killiecrankie1689

1. Attached image is of the A9 at Killiecrankie. The entire snowy field with the A9 forming the left boundary and trees on 3 other sides is to be purchased for extra carriageways, an extra bridge over the Allt Girnaig burn (centre of pic), a new lay-by and a huge drainage basin. This field is where the regiments of Hastings and James Mackay were lined up, parallel to the A9, to form the right flank of the government troops before battle commenced. Fighting was intense in this field.

2.

Information on the A9 project Killiecrankie to Glen Garry, including the Environmental Statement and draft Road Orders, is available on Transport Scotland's website: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/projects/a9-dualling-perth-to-inverness/a9-killiecrankie-to-glen-garry/>

3.

[Motion S5M-09851](#): Murdo Fraser, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date lodged: 11 January 2018. A9 Dualling at Killiecrankie <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-09851&ResultsPerPage=10>

4.

[Early Day Motion 940](#) Killiecrankie Battlefield Site: Primary Sponsor Pete Wishart, Perth and North Perthshire, Scottish National Party. Date tabled: 20 February 2018 Killiecrankie Battlefield Site <https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/940>

5.

Contact your MSP by finding the name and address in this Holyrood directory: <http://www.parliament.scot/msps/current-msps.aspx>

6.

Contact your MP by finding the name and address in this Westminster directory:

<https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

ENDS